PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

Enhancement to PharmaNet Adjudication

Effective **November 28, 2002**, Pharmacare is introducing a PharmaNet enhancement and more stringent audit procedures to ensure prescriptions are not filled too soon. (Please refer to the latest *PharmaNet Bulletin* for details on the changes to PharmaNet). This enhancement will support Pharmacare's existing policy regarding days' supply and is in response to numerous requests from pharmacists.

In addition to assisting pharmacists in dealing with refill requests, the enhancement will help to reduce drug wastage resulting from excess patient supplies.

PharmaNet Enhancement Effective November 28, 2002

- For all claims (both for new prescriptions and refills of existing prescriptions), PharmaNet will review the days' supply of any previous claim:
  - for the same patient and medication
  - submitted up to 60 days before the current date*
- If the current claim is being submitted more than 14 days before the expiry of the days' supply of such a previous claim, PharmaNet will automatically adjudicate the claim to zero and the Canadian Pharmacists Association response code "**CL - Exceeds Good Faith Limit**" will be returned.

When there is a legitimate reason for supplying the medication early, pharmacists may submit a claim using the existing intervention code "**UF – Patient gave adequate explanation, Rx filled as written**". When using this intervention code, Pharmacare requires pharmacists to document its use and reason for use in a manner accessible for audit purposes. (An example of appropriate use of the UF code would be if a patient had traveled to the pharmacy from a remote area.)

When reviewing a patient's profile before filling a prescription, we recommend pharmacists take this PharmaNet enhancement into consideration. If necessary, the pharmacist could then consult with the patient or physician before submitting the claim on PharmaNet. If a legitimate reason for supplying the medication early is not provided until after a claim has been submitted and returned with the CL response code, pharmacists may:

- reverse the original claim, and
- submit a new claim using the **UF** intervention code.

Accompanying Audit Enhancements

Please note that, with the introduction of this PharmaNet enhancement, it is more important than ever to enter an appropriate days' supply.

Pharmacare Audit, with the assistance of Pharmacare pharmacists, will regularly review claims accompanied by the UF intervention code. Audits will ensure the code is being used appropriately. Inadequate explanation and/or documentation of the use of the UF code may result in Pharmacare seeking recovery of cost.

*Reviewing only those claims submitted in the preceding 60 days ensures that the window for re-supply for patients on chronic medications is consistent with acceptable tolerances. It will also result in fewer CL response codes.